



SENATE
MAJORITY LEADER
KEN SIKKEMA
NEWS RELEASE

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Granholt Budget Easy On Government, Hard on Families

Sikkema: Governor Hoists Deficit On Taxpayers' Back

Governor's Proposals Heavy On Tax Increases & One- Time Fixes, Light On Spending Cuts

LANSING – Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema (R-Wyoming) today issued the following comments on the release of Governor Jennifer M. Granholt's proposed budget for the 2005 Fiscal Year:

"I am disappointed that the governor has presented the Legislature with a budget that does what is easiest for state government instead of what is best for Michigan's families. We are facing another looming deficit, one that requires a very sober attempt to cut state spending. Instead of offering a budget plan that brings Michigan's fiscal house in order, the governor has proposed to balance the budget with regressive tax increases and one-time accounting schemes. I am particularly disappointed that the governor has shifted the burden for balancing the budget on to college students, growing school districts and homeowners.

"The governor's proposed budget does not fix any of the structural problems causing the deficits we face. It just places the responsibility of closing those deficits with Michigan's families and small businesses.

"My colleagues and I pledge to work with the governor to craft a budget that will help create jobs, spur business investment in Michigan, and promote economic growth."